

In the claims

Claim 1, line 5, after "effective amount" please add -- for triplex stabilization --.

Claim 16, line 4, after "effective amount" please add -- for triplex stabilization --.

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

2. The Official Action dated April 24, 2000, rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, stating that the term "effective amount" is confusing because the amount is not clear. These rejections under §112 are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify the term "effective amount" to be an effective amount for stabilizing the triplex. Language claiming an effective amount and the desired effect have been held acceptable. See, e.g., *In re Halleck*, 164 USPQ 647.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the rejection under §112, is rendered moot. Applicants respectfully requested reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all rejections, and that claims 1-32 be allowed to issue at an early date.

3. The Official Action dated April 24, 2000, rejected claims 1, 14, 16 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), stating that the claimed invention was anticipated by Kim et al. (Biochemistry, 1996 Jan 30, Vol. 35, No. 4, pages 1187-1194). These rejections under §102(a) are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Official Action states that Kim et al., "teach the increase of stability of triplex DNA with 9-aminoacridine and bis-acridine. The present invention stabilizes triplex DNA using water structure-making substances. (See, Declaration of Jacques Fresco, paragraphs 1 – 5, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof). Kim et al., do not use water structure-making substances but use the disclosed acridines to stabilize third strand binding via intercalation of these acridines between base triplets of a triplex. (See, Declaration of Jacques Fresco, paragraphs 6 – 8)."